



County of Placer
Fish and Game Commission

11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

District 1 – Don Gould
District 2 – Mark Fowler
District 3 – Jim Victorine

District 5 – Kari Freidig
District 5 – Mickey Daniels
District 5 – Scott Husmann

District 4 – Gary Flanagan

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

6:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn, CA 95603
County Contact: Ed King

1. Call to Order – Kari Freidig

2. Roll Call

Present: Gould, Fowler, Freidig, Flanagan, Husmann, Victorine
Absent: Daniels

3. Approval of June 28, 2017 Agenda & April 26, 2017 Minutes

Agenda: Fowler/Flanagan/MPUV
Minutes: Flanagan/Freidig/MPUV

4. Public Comment: Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

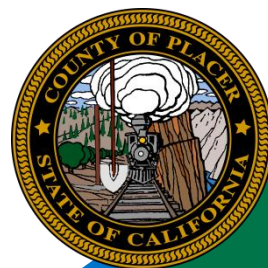
5. Financial Report

Expenditures through May totaled \$9,086, which includes \$4,800 in grant awards.
Court fines and penalty assessments through May totaled \$815.

6. Agency Reports:

- A. Commissioner Reports – Freidig–Gov. Brown approved \$6M for Combie Lake mercury removal**
- B. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee: Fowler reported:**
 - CDFW is seeking grant proposals to restore habitat impacted by cannabis cultivation - \$1.5M available for areas extending from Sonoma County to Oregon.
 - Sacramento River between Keswick Dam and Hwy 44 Bridge is closed to fishing - 5.5 miles - due to winter run Chinook salmon loss of 95% of juvenile natural production in 2014 and 2015.
 - Warning to be "Bear Aware" - tips discussed
 - CDFW is now accepting proposals for Prop 1 Restoration Grant Programs. \$31M available: \$24M for watershed restoration, \$7M for the Delta, deadline is July 14th.

The Fish & Game Commission is composed of appointed community members whose purpose is to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters regarding conservation and management of fish and wildlife. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide input. Placer County is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in public meeting. If you require disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aid or services, to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the Placer County Agriculture Department at (530) 889-7372.



- Wildlife Conservation Board Funds, Environmental Improvement and Acquisition Projects: \$11.5 M approved: \$3.5M allocated to Truckee-Donner Land Trust to acquire 600 acres northwest of Truckee.
- Free Fishing Day - July 1st and September 2nd - no license needed.
- There will be no Sage Grouse Hunting this year (2017) due to lower populations in all 4 hunting zones (47-62% decrease in populations); this fall California population is expected to be 1,341 (at low end) and 2,145 (at high end).
- SHARE program is offering Elk Hunts – 31 opportunities – on 29 selected properties applications for these hunts due July 24th.
- Department's Invasive Species Program sponsored a Youth Art Contest; winners from 126 submitted artworks – 2 six graders won 1st place and 2nd place – from Excelsior Elementary School in Roseville; 9-12th Grade level, the 2nd place winner was from Woodcreek High School in Roseville.

C. Land Use Subcommittee: Scott Husmann, Don Gould. Land use: two land use permit applications submitted, one for storage facility, one for redevelopment of a parcel in Tahoe Vista converting apartments to condominiums.

D. Department of Fish & Wildlife - No Report

E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency

NID:

Storage as of June 26th was 255,200 AF; 96% of capacity; 114% of average for this date. Precipitation total at Bowman = 135.90 which is 197% of average and this is the 2nd wettest year on record. Runoff in the Middle Yuba and Canyon Creek is still well above average and due to the late snow melt and limited access there are still some campgrounds that are not open yet.

PCWA:

French Meadows is at 94% capacity (~127,000 AF) and Hell Hole is spilling. Mosquito Ridge Road is open but down to one lane at three locations. Ralston Ridge/Blacksmith Flat Road remains closed at Ralston Powerhouse due to a landslide and will be closed through at least August. 11 Pines Road remains closed due to numerous landslides. Estimated re-opening is fall at the earliest. Only access to Hell Hole is via Mosquito Ridge Road. All campgrounds are open. Middle Meadows CG has no potable water while the spring source is being rehabilitated. High flows (2000+ cfs) have delayed the recreational whitewater season below Ralston Afterbay/Oxbow Powerhouse, although commercial guides are taking a few trips down the river. Look for flows in the 1600 cfs range or lower before rafting really kicks off. Folsom Reservoir is near full and lower American River flows are forecasted to be 4000+ cfs through August.

7. Informational Items:

A. Otis Wollan, former Placer County Water Agency board member, spoke about issues related to the proposed Centennial Dam including hydrology, impacts to groundwater, financial issues, and a broader vision for affordable alternatives.

1. The Bear River watershed is not a significant source of water compared to the Yuba River and American River watersheds.
2. Centennial Dam would not contribute significantly to water storage—Rollins and Camp Far West already substantial storage capacity for the watershed. Currently Camp Far West does not spill, as it does not fill excessively. Filling Centennial would cause Camp Far West to be dry. Camp Far West is storage is for ag use and groundwater recharge.
3. Cost of Centennial would be significant, especially because of having to replace bridge over Bear River. Projected costs with an added 5.5-7.5% inflation and the debt service would make this prohibitively expensive for the rate-payers in the NID system.
4. NID has as much in canal water loss as they do in industrial treated-water customers.
5. Question of NID water customers' use of water. Is it right to subsidize agriculture rates for landscape usage? State Water Control Board might have exception to this practice. Can we do better allocating the water usage?
6. The bottom line is that NID would be pulling \$40M per year out of the local community for marginal benefit to build Centennial. This will bankrupt a generation.
7. What does this have to do with fish and game?
 - a) A reservoir will create habitat that is not natural for this area.
 - b) Camp Far West going dry would create seriously lower ground water levels, which will affect ecosystems.
 - c) Climate change: history (tree rings) tells us that there are historic 10-year droughts. Projections vary and uncertainty is the norm. We are overdue for a multi-decade drought. The temperatures are due to get hotter in North America (hot drought); (sublimation of snow) snow in trees will not hit the ground....it will evaporate first (water will not make it to a dam); evapo-transpiration for plants will increase their consumption of water - they are transpiring 12 months per year, not 8.
8. NID could do much more to conserve existing water supplies and recharge groundwater basins during the winter and can remove sediment from existing storage systems, e.g. Combie.
9. NID is in no financial shape to borrow.

Suggestions on what Commissioners can do: work with County Staff to make comments on EIR (CEQA) when it comes out in September with fish and wildlife perspectives; comment on NEPA statement regarding social and economic issues when it released in February 2018. Placer County has filed protests related to groundwater issues.

B. A brief review and familiarization of Commissioner attendance requirements and responsibilities.

Chairperson Freidig had Ed King review the Operations Procedures Manual regarding members and their duties. A quorum is important, please let staff know if there will be a planned absence.

8. Action Item: 2017-18 officer nominations.

Nominations only at this time— could be one or two year increments. Chairman and Vice-Chair are elected.

Nomination of Mark Fowler for Chair: Freidig/Husmann/MPUV. Mark is currently vice chair and accepts this nomination

Nomination of Scott Husmann for Vice Chair: Freidig/Gould/MPUV. Scott accepts the nomination for vice chair.

Introduction of new Secretary, Pam Hart.

Review of meeting planner, next meeting is July 26th.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm